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**From:** Copeland, Anthony M [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1F293F866CBB478FAA59B4353D3DB637-TONY.COPELA]  
**Sent:** 11/1/2017 7:21:00 PM  
**To:** Eudy, Ken [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=559b029a243848e7afd724eed4610137-keudy1]  
**Subject:** Fwd: [External] ACP

Anthony M. Copeland  
Secretary  
North Carolina Department of Commerce

Begin forwarded message:

**Resent-From:** <[SRS0=hDI8=B7=sgcdesignbuild.com=durwood@securance.com](mailto:SRS0=hDI8=B7=sgcdesignbuild.com=durwood@securance.com)>  
**From:** Durwood Stephenson <[Durwood@sgcdesignbuild.com](mailto:Durwood@sgcdesignbuild.com)>  
**Date:** November 1, 2017 at 2:44:28 PM EDT  
**To:** Rosemary Wyche <[Rosemary@eandvgroup.com](mailto:Rosemary@eandvgroup.com)>, <[bruce.c.mckay@dominionenergy.com](mailto:bruce.c.mckay@dominionenergy.com)>  
**Cc:** <[larry.wooten@ncfb.org](mailto:larry.wooten@ncfb.org)>, <[Tolson.Norris@GMail.com](mailto:Tolson.Norris@GMail.com)>, <[acopeland@nccommerce.com](mailto:acopeland@nccommerce.com)>  
**Subject:** [External] ACP

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TO: Rosemary Wyche  
Bruce McKay

FROM: M. Durwood Stephenson

DATE: November 1, 2017

RE: ACP

I am committed this AM, but did get your phone message from last night and will return the call later today.

Farm Bureau President, Larry Wooten and I did have a lengthy telephone conversation yesterday afternoon. We remain committed supporters of the pipeline, but do have some caveats from recent conversations.

Certainly, we recognize this is a high-pressure line that cannot be assessed by local property owners trespassed by the pipeline easement. However, it is our understanding and belief from our research and many conversations that taps will be available to gas distributors that will increase natural gas supply and availability to consumers in our region. I understand stations have been designated along the route including Smithfield that permits access by distributors and ultimately consumers. I believe it is important for ACP Owners and support groups to identify planned distribution access locations and a projected schedule for distribution access. President Wooten and I do not believe we can wait 10 or more years to have gas availability in Eastern North Carolina: Our farmers cannot be competitive with propane vs natural gas and manufacturers or businesses will not locate here at a known energy cost disadvantage.

Our local business park has lost 2 large prospects because of the gas issue and I am aware of 2 other prospects to the north and east that would not consider Eastern North Carolina as a potential site because of the absence of gas.

Eastern North Carolina is a region in economic decline for want of necessary infrastructure to be economically competitive. Our region must have affordable energy (natural gas), broad band and road connectivity to goods, products and services in order to advance economically.

I am hopeful you can reassure us, your supporters, that natural gas will be available in a reasonable time period for distribution to consumers and economic development prospects.

We in Eastern North Carolina, consider ourselves strong advocates for protecting our environment and have carefully evaluated the benefits vs. the risk to environment and believe the risk is minimal but the benefits are great.

Although I certainly do not speak for the Governor nor his Administration, I do believe he will support allowing the professional permitting staff to perform their due diligence and ultimately make a decision that benefits the citizens and residents of our region with minimal environmental impact. It is unfair to the Governor and unreasonable as suggested by Rachel Carson Council to pressure the Governor to deny permitting without due process. I do not believe he will follow that course.

As for President Wooten and I we remain committed unless and/or until there is irrefutable evidence that contradicts our belief and understanding of the process and the need.

Thank you and please contact me if you have questions, but yes Question 5 should have a stronger, more-definitive response.

cc: Larry Wooten  
Norris Tolson  
Tony Copeland

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